# Supporting Asthma Education in Montana

Established in 2007, the Montana Asthma Control Program seeks to:

- Improve the quality of life for all Montanans with asthma
- Increase the quality of self management education provided to patients with asthma in our state

Our program supports providers who seek Asthma Educator Certification (AE-C). To become a certified asthma educator, providers must take the National Asthma Educator Certification Review Board (NAECB) Certification Exam. For more information about the NAECB exam visit: www.naecb.org

Though the Asthma Control Program cannot cover the cost taking the NAECB exam, our program provides resources and assistance to healthcare providers who desire to become certified asthma educators. Our services are listed on the inside of this brochure and include:

- Free study materials
- A mentoring program where current AE-Cs in Montana field questions about the exam
- Asthma education certification review courses

### What do asthma educators do?

According to the NAECB website, an AE-C is "an expert in counseling individuals with asthma and their families how to manage their asthma and minimize its impact on their quality of life."

#### Who do asthma educators serve?

8.8% of Montana adults and 11.1% of children in the state are affected by asthma. As a common and increasingly prevalent chronic disease, most clinicians will see asthma regularly in their practice, not matter how small.

### How can I network with other AE-Cs?

The Montana Asthma Control Program is committed to facilitating opportunities for AE-Cs in the state to come together, network and learn. To this end, the program sponsors conference calls and face-to-face meetings for AE-Cs across the state. Contact the Asthma Control Program if you are interested in participating.



### For more information contact:

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# Certified Asthma Educator Initiative



Improving
the quality of
asthma
education in
Montana

# Interested in becoming an AE-C? Let us help you study for the exam!

## Resource Library

The Montana Asthma Control Program maintains a resource library with free study materials for the NAECB exam. To help you prepare for the exam, our program loans out copies of these resources including:

 The Association of Asthma Educator's Certification Review Course on CD: These audio CDs are designed to help prepare asthma educators to take the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) exam. The course syllabus contains slides, notes and case studies that accompany the audio recordings of a live review course. The course content is based on the NAECB detailed outline for the asthma certification examination.

 The Asthma Educator's Handbook: A comprehensive resource for anyone wishing to take the NAECB exam, this book covers a range of asthma education topics and includes mini exams at the end of each chapter that simulate the types of questions likely to appear on the NAECB exam.

To loan out these free resources contact Carolyn Linden at clinden2@mt.gov or call 406-444-5946.

## Mentoring

The Asthma Control Program coordinates a mentoring program where healthcare providers who are already Certified Asthma Educators answer questions for individuals who are studying for the exam. If you wish to have a mentor, the

Asthma Control Program will take your contact information and give it to an existing AE-C who will be available by phone or e-mail to answer your questions regarding the exam. This free, informal program can increase your confidence in your ability to pass the NAECB exam.

If you would like to be linked with a mentor, contact Katie Loveland at kloveland@mt.gov or call 406-444-7304.

### Asthma Educator Review Courses

In June 2008, the Montana Asthma Control Program sponsored Montana's Certified Asthma Educator Review Course taught by faculty from the national Association of Asthma Educators. Nearly 70

healthcare providers across the state participated in this two day review course. The Montana Asthma Control Program plans to continue offering this type of review course annually or every other year. If you are interested in tak-

ing part in this kind of course contact Katie Loveland at kloveland@mt.gov who will put your name on a waiting list.